

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho

J.M.J.

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1942

Rev. Aloysius Collacurria C.M.F.

Rev. Dear Father

Please forgive me in being so negligent in answering Your letter as well as thanking You for Your Christmas greeting and good prayers in my behalf. Time pass so rapidly that the days and weeks pass and here we are <sup>in</sup> Lent almost.

I received the Badges and delivered them to the owner. Father was very grateful to You and Sister for them said he will remember You both in his Mass. I am very thankful to You for the many favours and blessings You have obtained for me, I will pray continually for You in return. Miss Hardy was here a few days ago to see me she has her mind settled that she is going to be a religious in our Order of the Holy Cross. She told me she received a nice letter from You before she left for here, she told me it was a great help to her, and as soon as she got home she was going to write to You again. I was glad to hear her say she was going to be a Sister of Holy Cross, it is all her own choice, altho. I feel it is all due to Your prayers.



for her, please Father keep her in Your prayers that God may give her the grace and courage to persevere, and make the sacrifice complete, when ever You see Sister, again ask her to ask that grace for her from our Lord, being an only girl in the family having all that the world could offer You will understand that the sacrifice on her part will appear harder to her for awhile to submit to Novitiate life and rules.

I am going to have her write to You, often because of You having charge of a Novitiate Yourself I know You will be of an immense help to her by Your advice as well as prayers, I feel she will be happy as she seems very much in earnest and going about it with the right attitude. I hope You keep real well, thanking You for all Your prayers for me I give You a holy Cross day each week as well as keep You in my prayers always

I am as ever Your friend in J. M. J.

Sister M. Mildreda



J. M. J.

February 15, 1942

Reverend Father Aloysius

Dear Father,

I would like to tell you about our retreat in Beaverville. It was wonderful. I do not think I have ever made a retreat which gave me so much spiritual joy. All through it, it seemed to me that God must be thinking of me when He put on Father's lips the things he said. First of all, Father spoke about the love of God. I think he spent two days on this before he chose a new subject, but even when he did, he would always come back to love, and say that was what all the other things amounted to - love. Father said so many things that have always been ideals or convictions of mine that it really made me happy. In his talk on humility, Father



spoke of always remaining  
God's little children and of never  
even trying to grow up. That is  
something I have always liked.  
I like to think of the little children  
around me and see how  
they love and trust me. Then  
I like to go to God in the same  
way. I always tell Him I do  
not see how He can refuse  
me, because I trust everything  
to Him.

On the same day, Father  
spoke of confidence — he called  
it that, but to me it was real  
abandon. That has grown with  
me for years now, just leaving  
all in His hands, knowing  
that everything that He wills  
or permits is best. I have come to  
the place now where I cannot  
pray for things, but I always  
ask God that His Holy Will  
may be done in whatever  
I am praying about. I like  
to ask, too, that His Holy Will



may be done in all creatures  
and in all places throughout  
the world. Sometimes I tell Him  
that He is too good to refuse  
me this or that and that I  
know He will do it just because  
He loves me and likes to make  
me happy. I cannot tell you  
how delicate God is toward  
me in just that way in  
so many seemingly little things  
of everyday occurrence. To me  
they are all manifestations  
of His love.

I went through retreat  
always feeling that it held  
something special for me.  
Then when it was all over  
and I went to tell Frances  
goodbye, she said, "It was  
all for you, wasn't it?"  
Father, what more can I  
say now? I do not know.

The whole thing thrilled  
me so much with spiritual joy  
that it seemed at times I could  
not contain myself, but that



this joy overflowed in tears which I could not hold back. Frances herself said she thought it was just the overflow of God's Love. Even before retreat, the thought of God's love and my desire to be His seemed to possess me so at times that it made me cry; I was so happy.

Before retreat, Frances and I had permission to have a visit which we enjoyed greatly. Frances and I have always loved each other since we first knew each other. (We were Novices together the first time Frances entered.) But our love has always been a silent one. Each of us seems to understand the other so well that there is nothing to say and our very silence says more than words could ever tell. I have always felt that Frances knows all about me without anyone's having to tell her.

But this time we did talk at our visit and in speaking



about God's love, Frances asked me if I had ever read "The Triumph of Love" by Williamson. I told <sup>her</sup> we were reading it altogether for our spiritual reading in the community but that Sister Mary Catherine had said that I should read it alone when Mother finished it. Then Frances offered to let me use her copy of the book during retreat. I did read it - all of it - and enjoyed it much. I think that even in the last month, my desire to love God and be all His has increased greatly.

It seems to me that the day of my perpetual vows on March 19 will be the greatest day of my life. I like to think of it as the day of my espousals to Jesus. I am preparing for it in that way. Father, on that day, may I please renew my consecration as a



victim of Divine Love? I would like to be another Christ, a living host which Jesus the High Priest may lift to the Eternal Father for the salvation of souls. I would like to love God with infinite love, with the Sacred Heart of His own Son, so that He may be loved in all fulness and forget that He is not loved by so many. I would like to give Him infinite joy and that is why I have asked Jesus to consume me in His own Divine Heart and when he has done that, to give me His Heart with which to love Him. I also asked that for you, Father, and still so each time I pray for you

I have finished reading the book on "The Secret Paths of Divine Love" and since Marmion's



"Sponsa Verbi" is not back yet, I have another which Sister Mary Catherine told me about. It is a translation of St. Bernard's book on The Love of God and parts of his sermons on the Canticle of Canticles. So far, I like it. I am reading Solomon's Canticle of Canticles from the Old Testament so that I can understand St. Bernard's commentary better.

I did not intend writing all this when I began. I pray that it is God's Will that I should have done it.

Please pray for me,  
Father, especially for March 19.

Sister Mary Christine